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VITAL STATISTICS OF QUEENSLAND, YEAR 1956.

Vital statistics of Queensland for the year 1956 showed a small fall in the birth rate and a rise in the death rate, with the net result that the year's natural increase (excess of births over deaths) of 20,223 was 822 less than in 1955. The marriage rate continued its slow decline, a not unexpected result in view of the abnormally high marriage rates of previous years, and a slight fall in the birth rate was probably largely due to this factor. The general death rate and the infantile mortality rate were both higher than in the previous year, but neither rate showed any serious departure from the good levels obtaining in recent years.

Births (see Table 1).

During the year 1956, 32,409 births were registered in Queensland, compared with 32,352 in 1955. Although the number of births increased by 57, on account of increased population the birth rate for 1956 fell to 23.7 per 1,000 population, compared with 24.2 in 1955. Had the average rate of 24.1 recorded for the five preceding years been reached in 1956 there would have been approximately 520 more births registered during the year. Births registered in the fourth quarter of the year always represent a low birth rate, but those recorded in the final quarter of 1956 gave the lowest rate for any quarter in post-war years. The last quarter's rate of 22.2 was, however, only 0.2 below the corresponding quarter's rate in 1955.

Although births in 1956 were 57 more than in 1955, deaths increased by 879, and the natural increase of 20,223 was 822 less than in 1955. The 1956 rate of natural increase was equal to 1.5 per cent. of the population.

In 1956, 16,702 males and 15,707 females were born, the masculinity rate (male births per 100 female births) of 106.3 being slightly above normal. Births in the fourth quarter were 3,939 males and 3,700 females, the masculinity rate being 106.5.

There were 1,833 ex-nuptial births during the year, equal to 5.7 per cent. of all births registered, their proportion of all births being the same as in 1955. A total of 260 children were legitimated during 1956.

Still births notified during 1956 numbered 556. They included 260 males and 281 females, equivalent respectively to 1.5 per cent. of all male births (live and still born) and 1.8 per cent. of all female births. In 15 other cases the sex was not recorded.

Multiple births consisted of 354 sets of twins and 5 sets of triplets. The twins included 366 males, 341 females, and one of unspecified sex. Of these, 10 males, 9 females, and one unspecified were still born. In 16 cases one twin was still born, and in 2 cases both were still born. The 5 sets of triplets consisted of 11 males and 4 females, all live born.

Marriages (see Table 2).

Marriages registered in Queensland in 1956 were 164 less than in 1955, totalling 9,934, equivalent to a marriage rate of 7.3 per 1,000 population. Bridegrooms included 870 who had been married before - 394 widowers and 476 divorcees - while it was not the first marriage of 967 brides - 425 widows and 542 divorcees. Bridegrooms included 959 minors and brides included 3,705 minors, making up 9.7 and 37.3 per cent. respectively of the total bridegrooms and brides, compared with 8.0 and 36.2 per cent. in 1955 and the much lower proportions of 4.3 and 24.4 per cent. respectively before the last war (in 1939).

The 1956 marriage rate of 7.3 per 1,000 population compares fairly well with the 1955 rate of 7.5 and the average of 7.9 recorded for the preceding five years, 1951 to 1955. The fall in the marriage rate in recent years is due, in the main, to the high rates recorded during the war and immediate post-war years which, in turn, has brought about a lessening in the number of single persons available for marriage. All other States have experienced similar falls. The Queensland 1956 rate of 7.3 was still above what might be regarded as a "normal" rate for the present population.

Deaths (see Tables 3 and 4).

Deaths during the year included 7,079 males and 5,107 females, totalling 12,186, or 879 more than for the year 1955. The death rate per 1,000 population for 1956 was 8.9, compared with 8.4 in 1955.

The number of deaths (12,186) was the highest ever recorded in any year in Queensland, the previous highest being the 11,344 recorded in 1954. The high total was due to the increased population rather than to any change in health conditions and, while the rate rose sharply in comparison with that of 1955, it was only 0.2 per 1,000 population above that recorded for the five preceding years, 1951 to 1955. Compared with 1955, diseases of the respiratory system showed the greatest numerical increase, 242, (37.6 per cent.) of the 17 broad classes of causes of death. Diseases of the circulatory system increased by 207 (5.1 per cent.), diseases of the nervous system and sense organs increased by 172 (10.8 per cent.), while deaths from accidents, poisonings, and violence increased by 62 (6.6 per cent.). Deaths from infective and parasitic diseases which decreased by 34 (13.8 per cent.) and diseases of the digestive system which fell by 23 (4.9 per cent.) were the only classes which had fewer deaths than 1955. Among the single causes of death, heart disease with 3,450 (or 28.3 per cent. of all deaths), malignant neoplasms, 1,696 (13.9 per cent.), vascular lesions affecting the central nervous system, 1,567 (12.9 per cent.), and accidental deaths, 845 (6.9 per cent.) were the main causes, and all showed substantial increases compared with 1955 figures. Deaths from tuberculosis of the respiratory system decreased from 130 to 76 in 1956.

Deaths of women from complications of pregnancy and childbirth increased from 20 in 1955, the lowest number ever recorded, to 29 in 1956 and the maternal mortality rate increased from 0.62 to 0.89 per 1,000 live births.

Infantile Mortality (see Tables 3 and 5).

Deaths of infants aged under one year numbered 737, comprising 407 males and 330 females, compared with 656 in 1955, an increase of 81. The infantile mortality rate was 22.7 per 1,000 live births, compared with 20.3 in 1955. Although higher than the rates recorded in the previous two years, which were in turn the lowest ever recorded, the 1956 rate was nevertheless a satisfactory one, being well below the rates recorded prior to 1954. All areas of the State recorded a higher rate than in the previous year. Infants who died during their first four weeks of life were 307 males and 223 females, while 100 males and 107 females died between one and twelve months of age.

Among causes of deaths of infants during the year 1956, congenital malformations, immaturity, and pneumonia (4 weeks and over) were all above normal, while birth injuries, post-natal asphyxia and atelectasis, pneumonia of the newborn, and miscellaneous causes were all below normal numbers.

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BRISBANE.

19th June, 1957.

Table 1 - Births.

Usual Place of Residence.	4th Quarter.		Year.			
	1955.	1956.	1955.	1956.		
				Males.	Females.	Total.
Metropolitan -						
City	266	324	1,219	677	615	1,292
North Side Inner Suburbs ..	319	312	1,372	667	620	1,287
North Side Outer Suburbs ..	611	582	2,554	1,294	1,188	2,482
Western Suburbs	286	289	1,181	614	571	1,185
South Side Inner Suburbs ..	183	159	774	339	381	720
South Side Outer Suburbs ..	577	599	2,309	1,256	1,102	2,358
Bayside	212	214	939	486	452	938
Rural	209	232	940	511	463	974
Total Metropolitan	2,663	2,711	11,288	5,844	5,392	11,236
Sub-Tropical (Non-Metropolitan) -						
Bundaberg	133	114	548	262	262	524
Gympie	58	60	244	105	131	236
Ipswich	230	237	937	507	470	977
Maryborough	113	105	451	220	203	423
Toowoomba	263	279	1,030	505	546	1,051
Warwick	47	61	220	111	122	233
Total Sub-Tropical Cities ..	844	856	3,430	1,710	1,734	3,444
Sub-Tropical Towns	350	368	1,592	839	799	1,638
Sub-Tropical Shires	1,898	1,905	7,998	4,204	3,977	8,181
Total Sub-Tropical (Non-Metropolitan)	3,092	3,129	13,020	6,753	6,510	13,263
Tropical -						
Cairns	107	102	536	257	259	516
Charters Towers	31	43	141	82	64	146
Mackay	76	87	392	221	196	417
Rockhampton	204	223	929	499	458	957
Townsville	242	220	1,018	499	458	957
Total Tropical Cities	660	675	3,016	1,558	1,435	2,993
Tropical Towns	74	84	330	165	150	315
Tropical Shires	1,057	1,040	4,698	2,382	2,220	4,602
Total Tropical	1,791	1,799	8,044	4,105	3,805	7,910
Total Occurring in Queensland ..	7,546	7,639	32,352	16,702	15,707	32,409
	Birth Rate.[a]					
Metropolitan -						
City	15.4	19.3	17.7	19.2		
North Side Inner Suburbs ..	17.0	16.7	18.4	17.3		
North Side Outer Suburbs ..	23.0	21.0	24.3	22.6		
Western Suburbs	23.5	22.4	24.6	23.3		
South Side Inner Suburbs ..	20.9	17.9	22.2	20.4		
South Side Outer Suburbs ..	22.3	22.5	22.6	22.3		
Bayside	22.9	22.4	25.7	24.8		
Rural	19.4	20.4	22.1	21.7		
Total Metropolitan	20.6	20.5	22.0	21.4		
Sub-Tropical (Non-Metropolitan) -						
Cities	23.7	23.5	24.2	23.8		
Towns	22.6	23.1	25.9	25.9		
Shires	23.9	23.7	25.3	25.6		
Total Sub-Tropical (Non-Metropolitan)	23.7	23.6	25.1	25.1		
Tropical -						
Cities	21.0	20.9	24.1	23.4		
Towns and Shires	25.1	24.5	28.0	26.9		
Total Tropical	23.4	23.0	26.4	25.5		
Total Queensland	22.4	22.2	24.2	23.7		

For note a, see page 4.

Table 2 - Marriages.

Place of Celebration.	Marriages.				Minors Married.	
	4th Quarter.		Year.		Year 1956.	
	1955.	1956.	1955.	1956.	Males.	Females.
Metropolitan	1,208	1,211	4,465	4,425	394	1,361
Sub-Tropical (Non-Metropolitan) -						
Bundaberg	51	49	263	226	14	88
Gympie	40	33	147	121	6	29
Ipswich	90	94	309	311	47	123
Maryborough	65	51	225	208	16	75
Toowoomba	113	162	470	564	51	203
Warwick	26	29	108	97	6	41
Total Sub-Tropical Cities ..	385	418	1,522	1,527	140	559
Other Sub-Tropical	401	433	1,712	1,700	210	904
Total Sub-Tropical (Non-Metropolitan)	786	851	3,234	3,227	350	1,463
Tropical -						
Cairns	64	64	228	249	32	94
Charters Towers	15	5	48	50	4	22
Mackay	65	63	270	277	26	111
Rockhampton	118	114	481	465	44	168
Townsville	118	88	413	329	35	101
Total Tropical Cities ..	380	334	1,440	1,370	141	496
Other Tropical	209	244	959	912	74	385
Total Tropical	589	578	2,399	2,282	215	881
Total Queensland	2,583	2,640	10,098	9,934	959	3,705
	Marriage Rate.[a]					
Metropolitan	9.3	9.1	8.7	8.4		
Sub-Tropical (Non-Metropolitan) -						
Cities	10.8	11.5	10.7	10.6		
Total	6.0	6.4	6.2	6.1		
Tropical -						
Cities	12.1	10.4	11.5	10.7		
Total	7.7	7.4	7.9	7.3		
Total Queensland	7.7	7.7	7.5	7.3		

a Annual rate per 1,000 population.
b Rate per 1,000 live births.
c The high rate is due to the location of three homes for aged persons in this district.

Table 3 - Deaths.

Usual Place of Residence.	All Deaths.				Deaths Under One Year.			
	4th Quarter.		Year.		4th Quarter.		Year.	
	1955.	1956.	1955.	1956.	1955.	1956.	1955.	1956.
Metropolitan -								
City	246	231	988	981	8	8	28	35
North Side Inner Suburbs	195	202	852	853	1	8	23	23
North Side Outer Suburbs	175	191	737	859	8	7	44	45
Western Suburbs	86	101	395	459	1	7	17	30
South Side Inner Suburbs	78	70	320	352	4	1	19	16
South Side Outer Suburbs	173	172	695	840	10	11	43	38
Bayside	128	147	614	627	2	4	17	21
Rural	66	62	261	225	3	6	17	16
Total Metropolitan	1,147	1,176	4,862	5,196	37	52	208	224
Sub-Tropical (Non-Metropolitan) -								
Bundaberg	36	59	178	245	-	3	5	9
Gympie	15	18	94	102	-	-	-	1
Ipswich	88	94	378	383	8	10	29	21
Maryborough	42	33	180	186	2	3	9	9
Toowoomba	112	121	476	529	5	8	24	26
Warwick	26	32	99	114	3	2	6	7
Total Sub-Tropical Cities	319	357	1,405	1,559	18	26	73	73
Sub-Tropical Towns	126	135	520	566	3	10	30	43
Sub-Tropical Shires	490	541	2,089	2,234	43	53	174	193
Total Sub-Tropical (Non-Metropolitan)	935	1,033	4,014	4,359	64	89	277	309
Tropical -								
Cairns	38	47	162	174	1	-	10	17
Charters Towers	39	36	161	179	1	-	2	3
Mackay	32	26	155	152	-	1	16	10
Rockhampton	81	111	389	431	2	8	15	21
Townsville	84	95	369	399	5	4	20	26
Total Tropical Cities	274	315	1,236	1,335	9	13	63	77
Tropical Towns	21	22	82	105	4	1	10	13
Tropical Shires	282	307	1,113	1,191	21	27	98	114
Total Tropical	577	644	2,431	2,631	34	41	171	204
Total Occurring in Queensland	2,659	2,853	11,307	12,186	135	182	656	737
	Death Rate.[a]				Infantile Mortality Rate.[b]			
Metropolitan -								
City	14.3	13.8	14.3	14.6	17	25	23	27
North Side Inner Suburbs	10.4	10.8	11.4	11.5	9	26	17	18
North Side Outer Suburbs	6.6	6.9	7.0	7.8	16	12	17	18
Western Suburbs	7.1	7.8	8.2	9.0	21	24	14	25
South Side Inner Suburbs	8.9	7.9	9.2	10.0	23	6	25	22
South Side Outer Suburbs	6.7	6.5	6.8	8.0	29	18	19	16
Bayside	13.8c	15.4c	16.8c	16.6c	5	19	18	22
Rural	6.1	5.5	6.1	5.0	19	26	18	16
Total Metropolitan	8.9	8.9	9.5	9.9	19	19	18	20
Sub-Tropical (Non-Metropolitan) -								
Cities	9.0	9.8	9.9	10.8	29	30	21	21
Towns	8.1	8.5	8.4	8.9	23	27	19	26
Shires	6.2	6.7	6.6	7.0	19	28	22	24
Total Sub-Tropical (Non-Metropolitan)	7.2	7.8	7.7	8.3	22	28	21	23
Tropical -								
Cities	8.7	9.8	9.9	10.4	20	19	21	26
Towns and Shires	6.7	7.2	6.7	7.1	24	25	21	26
Total Tropical	7.5	8.2	8.0	8.5	22	23	21	26
Total Queensland	7.9	8.3	8.4	8.9	21.0	23.8	20.3	22.7

For notes a to c, see page 4.

Table 4 - Causes of Deaths.

Class.	Cause of Death (International List, 1948 Revision).	4th Quarter.		Increase or Decrease.	Year.		Increase or Decrease.
		1955.	1956.		1955.	1956.	
1	Infective and Parasitic Diseases	45	53	+8	246	212	-34
2	Neoplasms	431	447	+16	1,649	1,740	+91
3	Allergic, Endocrine System, Metabolic and Nutritional Diseases	57	54	-3	251	256	+5
4	Diseases of the Blood and Blood-forming Organs	12	14	+2	61	63	+2
5	Mental, Psychoneurotic, and Personality Disorders	24	21	-3	87	87	-
6	Diseases of the Nervous System and Sense Organs	387	416	+29	1,589	1,761	+172
7	Diseases of the Circulatory System	905	934	+29	4,047	4,254	+207
8	Diseases of the Respiratory System	135	189	+54	644	886	+242
9	Diseases of the Digestive System	126	124	-2	469	446	-23
10	Diseases of the Genito-urinary System	109	130	+21	482	494	+12
11	Complications of Pregnancy, Childbirth, and the Puerperium ..	2	6	+4	20	29	+9
12	Diseases of the Skin and Cellular Tissue	6	5	-1	25	28	+3
13	Diseases of the Bones and Organs of Movement	7	13	+6	40	47	+7
14	Congenital Malformations	35	43	+8	170	193	+23
15	Certain Diseases of Early Infancy	75	100	+25	398	441	+43
16	Senility and Ill-defined Conditions	41	65	+24	183	241	+58
17	Accidents, Poisonings, and Violence	262	239	-23	946	1,008	+62
	Total All Causes	2,659	2,853	+194	11,307	12,186	+879
	Tuberculosis of Respiratory System[a]	24	22	-2	130	76	-54
	Malignant Neoplasms (Cancer, &c.)[b]	426	433	+7	1,601	1,696	+95
	Vascular Lesions affecting Central Nervous System[c]	347	368	+21	1,404	1,567	+163
	Heart Disease[d]	716	771	+55	3,199	3,450	+251
	Nephritis and Nephrosis[e]	57	82	+25	271	301	+30
	Accidental Deaths[f]	210	201	-9	779	845	+66

a Included in Class 1. c Included in Class 6. e Included in Class 10.
b Included in Class 2. d Included in Class 7. f Included in Class 17.

Table 5 - Causes of Deaths of Infants Under One Year.

Cause of Death (International List, 1948 Revision).	4th Quarter.		Increase or Decrease.	Year.		Increase or Decrease.
	1955.	1956.		1955.	1956.	
Congenital Malformations	27	30	+3	127	135	+8
Birth Injuries	23	16	-7	109	92	-17
Post-natal Asphyxia and Atelectasis ..	8	15	+7	66	61	-5
Immaturity	23	49	+26	141	189	+48
Pneumonia of Newborn	8	7	-1	22	17	-5
Diarrhoea and Enteritis of Newborn ..	1	-	-1	1	4	+3
Other Diseases of Early Infancy ..	12	13	+1	59	77	+18
Total Diseases of Early Infancy ..	102	130	+28	525	575	+50
Pneumonia (aged 4 weeks and over) ..	8	17	+9	36	66	+30
Diarrhoea and Enteritis (aged 4 weeks and over)	9	13	+4	21	22	+1
All Other Causes	16	22	+6	74	74	-
Total Deaths Under One Year	135	182	+47	656	737	+81
Deaths Under Four Weeks	94	126	+32	480	530	+50